

Hanford Advisory Board Draft Advice

Topic: Request for Identification & Public Review Documents *(which will provide the basis for defining the RI/FS process, verifying IROD cleanup levels and determining final RODs at Hanford)*

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Originating Committee: Executive Issues Committee

Version #1: **Color:** __pink__yellow_X__green__buff__purple__blue

Background

Documents pave the path to decisions at Hanford. Unfortunately the relationships between decision documents are often unclear and make tracking the path to a decision difficult. There are currently many documents in development that will contain the data and analyses necessary to support decisions for the final records of decision (RODs) at Hanford. However, it is unclear how many documents will be up for review, what their titles will be, or the breadth and scope of document contents. This knowledge would enable the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) to plan and prioritize its work-scope and provide meaningful feedback throughout this decision-making process.

Access to the information that will inform these final records of decision will allow the Board to weigh in with questions and comments before the final decisions are made. A better understanding of how these documents relate to each other and what integration will be necessary to construct the platform and decision framework for the final remedial investigation/feasibility studies (RI/FSs) and RODs will increase the efficiency and quality of the Board's review.

In the fall of 2011, the Board anticipates the first RI/FS, which will help solidify the first of the final RODs for the Hanford Site.

For Board work planning we need to know the timelines anticipated for document publication so that we can develop, in tandem with the regulatory agencies and the public, a global understanding of the decision making arena. It will not serve the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nor the public if there is only a partial "picture" available to the Board and the public for the final RODs.

The Board believes that DOE should make each of the decision-supporting documents available, regardless of whether they are required to do so by law, so that the Board and the public can review and understand how a decision was made and how past documents covering the same topics/operable units relate. The Board stands ready to help DOE communicate to the public the breadth of the data necessary to make these final critical decisions.

Advice:

- The Board advises that DOE develop a publically accessible decision document tracking system which:
 - Includes documents DOE anticipates utilizing in development of the RI/FS and to support final RODs;
 - Identifies the breadth and scope of document contents;

- Includes a time frame indicating when these records will be available to the Board and the public.
- The Board advises DOE to link this document tracking system to the Tri-Party Agreement's (TPA) Community Relations Plan, and be included in an annually updated strategic public involvement plan, which the Board urges the TPA agencies to prepare with our input.
- The Board requests the opportunity to read and respond to these documents, with formal comments and informal feedback, while they are in draft status.
- The Board advises that DOE work with the Board to develop tutorials that help build a comprehensive understanding of decision documents and their integration with each other in the RI/FS to final ROD process.